



Tohono Chul
GARDENS • GALLERIES • BISTRO

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Tohono Chul, Tucson’s Oasis in the Desert, Goes Solar with an Unprecedented Program!

Tucson, AZ (January 23, 2017) Rated as one of the World’s Great Botanical Gardens by Travel + Leisure Magazine, Tohono Chul keeps the momentum by going solar. The 49-acre nature preserve has always been committed to conservation education and sustainability with programs such as composting and water reclamation, but now the power of the sun helps operate this Tucson gem. The unique solar program created between Tohono Chul and Solar Solution AZ is unprecedented. There are many residential and major commercial solar programs available, but none for mid-range organizations such as Tohono Chul. Tohono Chul Executive Director, Dr. Christine Conte, and Owner of Solar Solution AZ, Robert Watson III, worked tirelessly to develop a system that could take the non-profit solar. “This was a fantastic challenge for our company. We wanted to show our commitment to the Tucson community by making solar programs accessible for all. Not only are we proud of the results, we’ve also helped to make a lifelong community partner.” says Watson. The installation of Phase One is complete and Phase Two will begin with the construction of their Event Pavilion, projected to break ground in 2017.

The rooftops of the Garden Bistro, Admissions Building, and Administration Building host 95 panels, with the remaining 231 panels for the Phase Two installation. The combined power of the 326 panels will produce about 294 watts daily, with an annual production of 107,250 watts. The project would not have been possible without the generous gifts of donors. Tohono Chul will redirect the solar savings to continue support for garden operations, programming, and facilities.

Get the facts:

Description of Savings	Quantification of Savings
Solar Array Output	61,750 kWh
Solar Array – CO2 Offsets	41 Tons of Carbon Annually
Solar Array – CO2 Offsets	82,745 Pounds of Carbon Annually Eliminated
Solar Array – Cars off the Road	5 Cars off the road for one year
Solar Array – Gasoline Equivalent	4,265 Gallons of Gas
Solar Array – Tree Equivalent	1,235 Trees cleansing the air for one Year
Solar Array – Tree Planting Equivalent	30.87 Trees planted for life of tree
Solar Array – Average Homes Powered	6.9 Homes powered for one year
Solar Array – Average Lightbulbs Powered	528.6 Lightbulbs powered for one year

Tohono Chul is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to enrich people's lives by connecting them with the wonders of nature, art, and culture in the Sonoran Desert region and inspiring wise stewardship of the natural world. For more information about the music schedule, upcoming events, art exhibits, and their museum shops please visit <http://tohonochulpark.org/> or call 520-742-6455.